REMARKS

An interview was conducted with Examiner Luebke on May 9, 2002 and the Examiner is thanked for courtesies extended to Counsel at that time. In view of the discussions during the interview and in response to the Office Action mailed February 13, 2002, applicant submits the following.

In the Office Action of February 13, 2002, a previous objection to the disclosure was maintained because the meaning of the words "standing back" on page 19, line 18 of the substitute specification is unclear. Applicant has amended the substitute specification to clarify that the outer conductor 6 of the coaxial cable 8 is set back from where rest surfaces 42 and 44 contact the cable. It is believed the objection to the disclosure is now overcome.

Claims 8 and 39 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph. Claim 8 has been amended to delete plate-shaped contact element. Claim 39 has been amended to recite the brackets associated with the ends of the base structure include sealing surfaces which comprise mutually facing interior surfaces, the brackets extend from the base member and at least one of the brackets is made from an elastic material and is adapted to sandwich an elastic sealing element following securing together of the brackets.

In the Office Action claims 1, 3, 7, 8, 16-18, 22-25, 29 and 39 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being

anticipated by Cauderay, et al. Claims 11, 13, 14, 20 and 30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)as being unpatentable over Cauderay, et al. in view of Tinnerman '627 and claim 26 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) over Cauderay, et al. Independent claims 1 and 13 have been amended to recite the band shaped, electrically conducting contact element includes at least one resilient, electrically conducting contact protrusion formed integrally therewith. Accordingly, it is believed the rejection of claims 1, 3, 7, 8, 16-18, 22-25, 29 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) is now overcome.

Notwithstanding the above, the Examiner advised applicant's representative during the interview that a new rejection of claims 1, 3, 7, 8, 16-18, 22-25, 29 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) over Cauderay, et al. in view of Tinnerman '627 would likely result. The Examiner was of the opinion the spacer element 9 and metal band 4 shown in Cauderay, et al. may be integrally formed in view of Tinnerman '627 which teaches projections 18 formed within clamp body 10. Reconsideration of this potential rejection and the current rejections under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) is requested for the following reasons.

Notwithstanding the disclosure in Tinnerman '627, Cauderay, et al. teaches away from an integrally formed metal band 4 and spacer element 9. Attached is an English translation (6 pages) of Cauderay, et al. The metal band 4 of Cauderay, et al. carries a spacer element 9 adapted to be deformable under compressive load.

Spacer element 9 is therefore provided in the form of a braided material. Accordingly, because a *solid* band cannot be integrally formed with a *braided* spacer element, Cauderay, et al. teaches away from any such modification. Further, nothing in Tinnerman '627 teaches integral formation of a braided material with a solid material.

In the alternative, it cannot be obvious to use the contact element of Tinnerman '627 in place of the contact element 9 of Cauderay, et al. as stated in the Office Action. The cable of Cauderay, et al. is a coaxial high frequency (HF) cable for electrically conveying data transmission or the like. The sharp points 18 of the Tinnerman '627 clamp are adapted to puncture through an enamel or other coating on a metal conduit to provide electrical contact with the conduct. Replacement of the braided and compressible spacer element 9 of Cauderay, et al. with the sharp pointed clamp of Tinnerman '627 will clearly cause damage to the coaxial cable transmission line and interfere with the nature and frequency of electrical wave transmission through the coaxial cable. Accordingly, there is no prior art suggestion for the combination.

The remaining references are likewise deficient. Neither Tinnerman '492 nor Ellenwood disclose an electrically conducting contact element including contact protrusion as claimed nor would Cauderay, et al. suggest combination with the same.

In view of the above, it is believed the application is now in condition for allowance and early notification of the same is respectfully requested.

It is believed that no fee is due; however, should that be incorrect, please charge Deposit Account No. 19-2105 and inform the undersigned.

Should the Examiner have any additional questions or comments, she is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION AND CLAIMS

WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

- - To provide an electrically conducting connection between the outer conductor 6 of a coaxial cable 8 and a grounding cable 20, the device 2 is placed around a bared region of the coaxial cable 8 and tightened by screws 18. In the process, the base structure 4, by means of rest surfaces 42 and 44 and the sealing surfaces of the sealing lips 30 and 32, comes to rest against the sheath of the coaxial cable 8. The contact protrusion 40 projects perpendicular to the rest surfaces 42 and 44, and in a direction shown by an arrow 46 in Fig. 2 when in the assembled position and sufficiently beyond rest surfaces 42 and 44 so that, in this assembled position, it comes to rest against the outer conductor 6 of the coaxial cable 8 which is **set back** [standing back], and an electrically conducting connection is thereby implemented between the contact element 10 and the outer conductor 6. Because the grounding cable 20 is connected though the screws 18 to the contact element 10, the desired electrically conducting connection has been set up in this manner, and the outer conductor 6 is now grounded.

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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. **(thrice amended)** A device for providing electrical contact to an outer conductor of a coaxial cable, the outer conductor having bare segments, said device comprising:

a) a base structure adapted to be tensioned around a coaxial cable, said base structure provided with an interior surface and an exterior surface;

b) sealing lips operatively associated with said base structure and extending from said interior surface thereof, said sealing lips for providing a seal between said base structure and a coaxial cable when said base structure is tensioned therearound;

c) a band shaped, electrically conducting contact element attached to said base structure, said band shaped, electrically conducting contact element including at least one resilient, electrically conducting contact protrusion **formed integrally** [unitary] therewith and biased to extend beyond said sealing lips so that when said base structure is tensioned around a coaxial cable said resilient, electrically conducting contact protrusion will rest against the bare segments of the coaxial cable and provide electrical contact therewith.

8. **(thrice amended)** Device as claimed in claim 1, and wherein said base structure is [at least one of] a band-shaped [or plate-shaped] contact element constructed from electrically

conducting material.

13. **(thrice amended)** A device for providing electrical contact to an outer conductor of a coaxial cable, the outer conductor having bare segments, said device comprising:

a) a base structure adapted to be tensioned around a coaxial cable, said base structure provided with an interior surface and an exterior surface;

b) sealing lips operatively associated with said base structure and extending from said interior surface thereof, said sealing lips for providing a seal between said base structure and a coaxial cable when said base structure is tensioned therearound;

c) a band shaped, electrically conducting contact element attached to said base structure, said band shaped, electrically conducting contact element including at least one resilient, electrically conducting contact protrusion **formed integrally** [unitary] therewith and biased to extend beyond said sealing lips so that when said base structure is tensioned around a coaxial cable said resilient, electrically conducting contact protrusion will rest against the bare segments of the coaxial cable and provide electrical contact therewith; and

d) said at least one resilient, electrically conducting contact protrusion consists of a blade projecting away from said base structure interior surface.

39. (**thrice amended**) Device as claimed in claim **22** [1] and **wherein each of said respective brackets of said base structure first and second opposite ends is provided with** [further including] sealing surfaces, said sealing surfaces consisting of mutually facing interior surfaces **, each of said mutually facing interior surfaces provided on a separate one of said respective brackets** [of cooperating bracket members, said cooperating bracket members] **, said respective brackets** extending from said base member and at least one of **which is** made of an elastic material [or] adapted to sandwich an elastic sealing element therebetween when in an assembled position.